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MCDONALD'S FARM

If there were no Larry McDonald, Congress would have to invent him. For several years, the Georgia Democrat (who boasts of his John Birch Society membership in his official biography) has played the time-worn Washington role of regaling his colleagues and constituents with tales of vast, shadowy left-wing conspiracies.

Most of the time, McDonald is considerate enough to confine these ruminations to the back pages of the daily *Congressional Record*, where they enjoy immunity from libel suits that might otherwise be filed by those he names as communist dupes and terrorist agents.

In a departure from that cautious practice, McDonald has stepped out from behind his cloak of Congressional immunity to help establish computerized files of American left-wing organizations and individuals in an Alexandria, Virginia, company called "Western Goals, Inc."

McDonald has been named chairman of Western Goals. Building on a reputed capitalization of \$1.5 million raised from corporations, foundations, and direct-mail solicitations, the company plans to create a bank of dossiers rivaling the FBI's. The director is a part-time assistant in McDonald's Congressional office. Providing research will be John Rees, a one-time FBI and police informant, who publishes a rap sheet on the Left called *Information Digest* and is an editor of the John Birch Society's *Review of the News*. His wife Sheila, also a former informant, is a research assistant to McDonald.

The director, Linda Guell, insists that contrary to news reports, "we don't keep names of individuals" in the files. Rees, in a short telephone interview, wasn't as firm; in response to a question, he chuckled, "Well, if that's what she said, that's what's happening."

In a fund-raising circular, Western Goals claims its file-building efforts were made necessary by reforms of the FBI and the CIA—reforms which, it asserted, had crippled national security.

Rees was asked whether individuals would be able to check their files for accuracy. "If I controlled it, certainly not," he answered. "Why should we make something like that available?"

There's one good reason: Internal FBI reports on Rees's activity while he tried to peddle intelligence to Government agencies during the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago describe his information as highly unreliable.

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